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What the Forest Service Does

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United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

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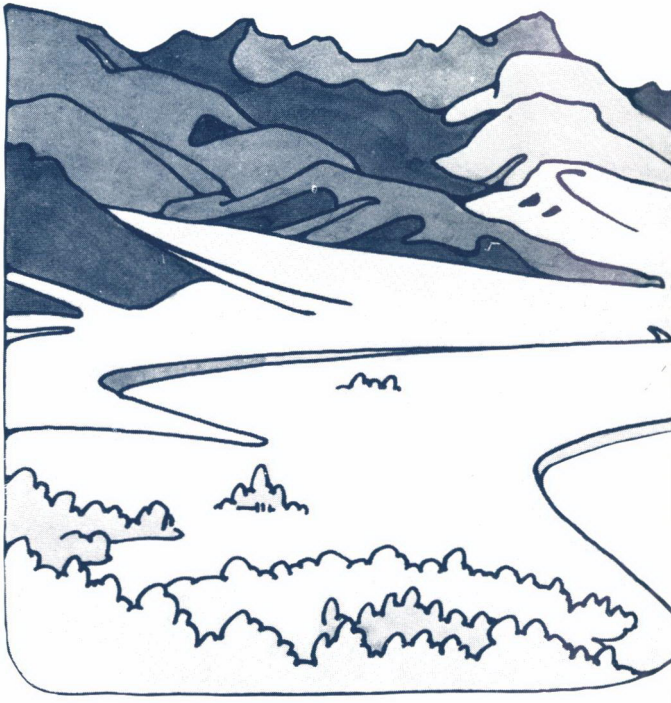
Forest Service Responsibilities

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides leadership in the management, protection, and use of the Nation's forests and rangelands, almost two-thirds of the Nation's federally owned lands.

The agency is dedicated to multiple-use management of these lands for sustained yields of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood, and recreation. Under this management concept, the best combination of uses benefits the American people and assures the productivity of the land and quality of the environment for present and future generations.

The Forest Service is the largest and most diverse agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The agency's 29,211 permanent full-time employees, plus summer employees, constitute the Government's major conservation organization. Forest Service employees perform many different natural resource tasks, ranging from improving the beauty and productivity of the forests, to showing strip miners how to rehabilitate the land, to managing much of the Nation's wilderness.

The Forest Service relies on long-range program planning to assure that the resource demands placed on the

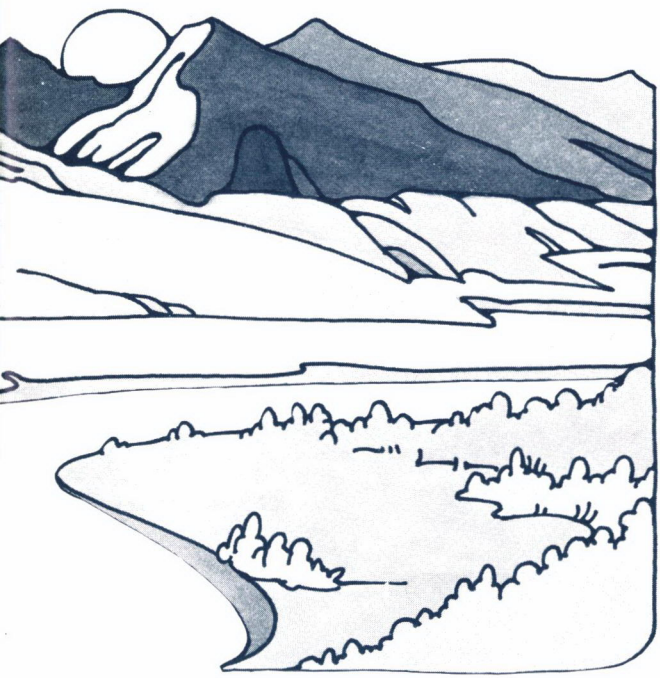


Nation's forests and rangelands are met and the productivity and environmental quality of these lands are maintained. The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA), bolstered by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA), provides for this planning.

This long-range planning focuses on the periodic development of two documents. One, the Assessment, predicts long-term demands and supplies of renewable resources on the Nation's 1.6 billion acres of forest and rangeland, under all ownerships. The Assessment describes how these resources may be better used.

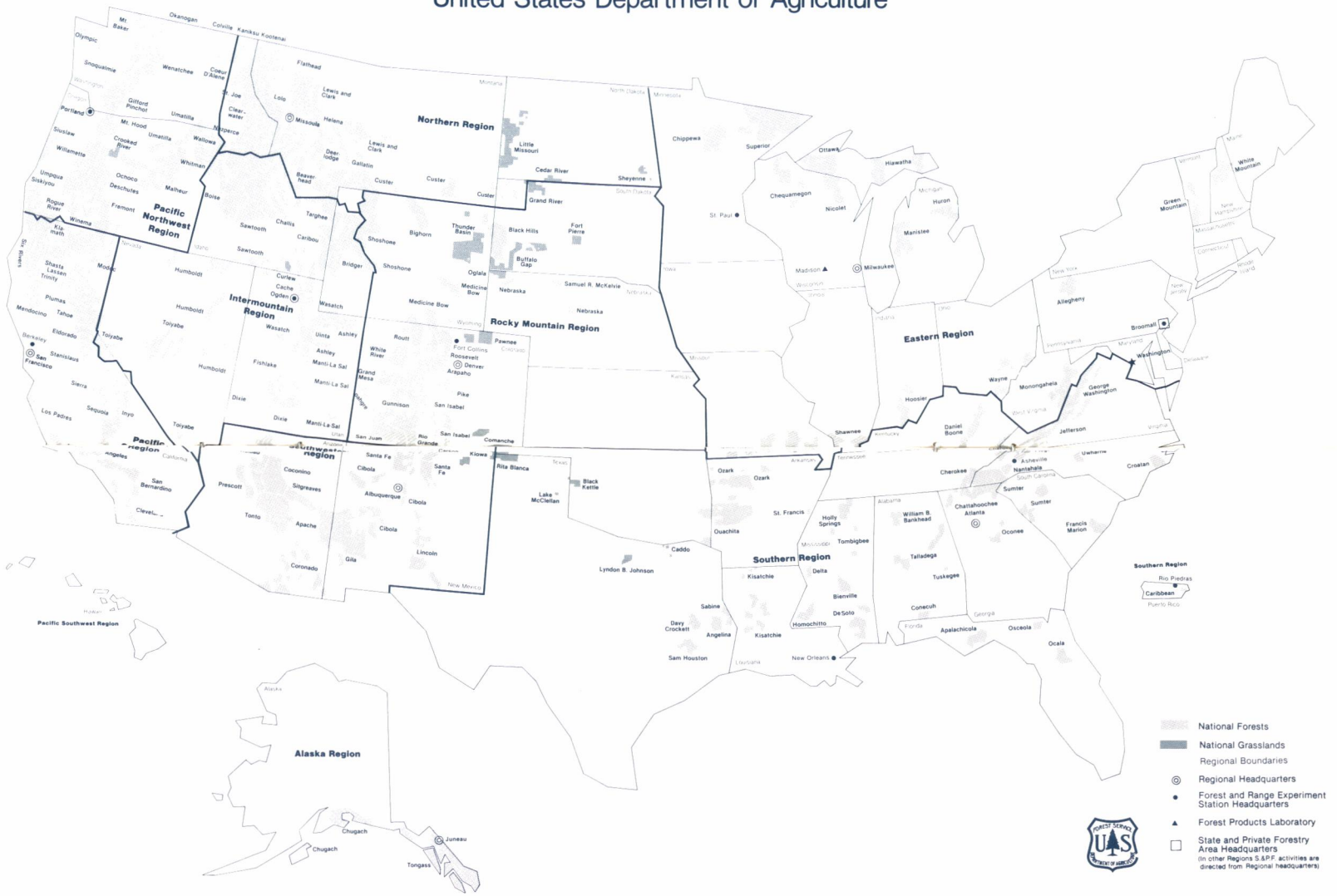
The other, which is based on the Assessment, is the long-range Program for all Forest Service activities, including management of the National Forest System, State and Private forestry programs, and forestry research. A new Assessment is prepared every 10 years and a new Program every 5. The Forest Service involves the public in preparation of both.

These documents, as well as other policy direction, serve as guides to long-range planning and provide one basis for the development of annual budget proposals.



The Forest Service

United States Department of Agriculture



Forest Service activities cover three major areas:

1. Management, protection, and use of the National Forest System, encompassing 191 million acres of land, for continuous flows of services and products both now and in the future.

2. Cooperation with State foresters, private forest and woodland owners, wood processors, and private and public agencies. This cooperation, including technical assistance, is designed to focus scientific management and utilization on forest resources to improve the quality and increase the quantity of goods and services produced from non-Federal forest lands.

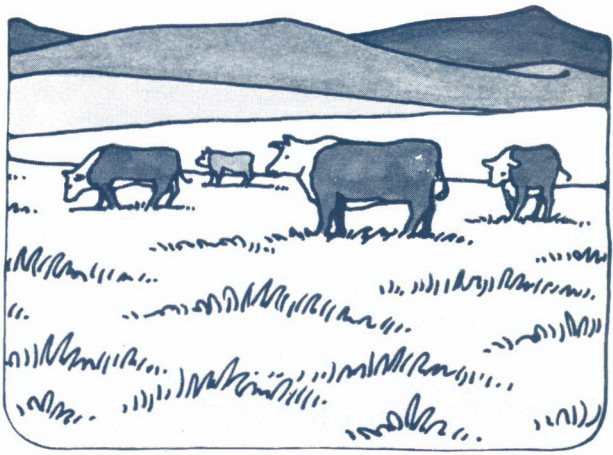
3. Research in forestry and forest products utilization to support National Forest management and cooperative forestry programs, as well as management of all the Nation's forests and rangelands in general.

The 156 National Forests, 19 National Grasslands, and 16 Land Utilization Projects that make up the National Forest System are located in 44 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. This land includes such diverse areas as mountain glacier fields, forests, range and grasslands, lakes and streams, and tropical rain forests. The natural resources on these lands represent some of the Nation's greatest assets and have major economic, environmental, and social significance for all Americans. These resources are managed for a variety of benefits including water, forage, wildlife habitat, wood, recreation, wilderness, and minerals. To guide this multiple-use management, the Forest Service prepares integrated land and resource

management plans for each National Forest unit. Public involvement plays a key role in development of these plans.

Water

Much of the Nation's water supply flows from National Forest System lands. Assuring adequate yields of high quality water and continuing soil productivity are the aims of the Forest Service's watershed management programs. Agency efforts include developing and implementing practices to prevent soil loss or damage and protecting water quality from the effects of such land-disturbing activities as roadbuilding. Other major activities include rehabilitating abandoned minelands and other areas abused by past methods, assessing water requirements and securing the needed water rights for National Forest activities, and monitoring the effectiveness of current practices.



The Forest Service also conducts soil and water inventories, which are essential to wise resource management. These inventories provide information about soil productivity, erosion and soil stability problems, and the effects of vegetation on water yields.

Forage

The Forest Service manages more than 14 percent of the Nation's 1.2 billion acres of forest range. This National Forest System (NFS) rangeland is managed to conserve the land and its vegetation while providing food for both domestic livestock and wildlife.

Forage production is a primary use of these lands. However, under multiple-use concepts, grazing areas also serve as watersheds, wildlife habitat, recreation sites, and demonstration areas of range management. Grazing privileges are granted on all forest ranges within the NFS, plus the 3.8 million acres of National Grasslands. More than 3 million head of cattle and sheep graze on NFS lands annually under permit arrangements with private ranchers and farmers. About 15,000 rural families, mostly owners of small herds in the Western States, hold renewable grazing privileges for which an annual fee is charged. Some ranchers depend upon seasonal grazing from Federal lands to "round out" their year-long forage supply.

Permittees cooperate with the Forest Service in range improvement projects. Also, proper grazing use of privately owned forest land is encouraged and assisted through cooperation between State agencies and the Forest Service.

The Forest Service shares responsibility with the Bureau of Land Management for the protection of wild and free-roaming horses and burros on public rangelands.

Wildlife and Fish Habitat

The Forest Service manages fish and wildlife habitat on the National Forests and National Grasslands in cooperation with the fish and game departments of the States.

The National Forest System provides hunting and fishing enthusiasts, bird and animal watchers, photographers, and students the opportunity to enjoy fish and wildlife in their natural habitats.

Although these National Forest System lands are less than one-twelfth of the country's total area, they contain about half of the Nation's big game. The 83,000 miles of forest streams and 1.8 million acres of lakes provide excellent habitat for many species of fish and wildlife.

The Forest Service carries out various projects to make National Forest System lands a better home for fish and wildlife. Projects include developing spawning beds for fish, stabilizing stream channels, making potholes for waterfowl, erecting fencing, developing new fishing lakes, conducting prescribed burning, and enacting other conservation measures. Top priority is given to maintaining and improving habitats of the 64 threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, and plant species found on NFS lands. Programs to maintain and improve habitat are carried out in

consultation and cooperation with State fish and game agencies.

Wildlife resources on these lands annually attract nearly 30 million visitor-days of hunting and fishing and about 17 million visitor-days of such "nonconsumptive" pleasures as nature study and sightseeing. (A visitor-day represents the equivalent of 1 person using a National Forest for 12 hours, 12 persons for 1 hour, or any equivalent combination.)

Wood

Of the 191 million acres of National Forests, 86.5 million acres are classified as commercial forests. Commercial forest land is land that is available for, and capable of, producing crops of industrial wood. These commercial forests help furnish the Nation with the lumber and plywood needed for increased housing and industrial demands, and with paper products.

Largely because of the substantial areas of large, overmature trees in the Pacific Northwest, the National Forests contain 41 percent of the Nation's standing softwood timber. Some 20 percent of the Nation's total sawtimber harvest comes from the National Forests.

The Forest Service annually sells about 11 billion board feet of timber from the National Forests. The agency reforests an average of 400,000 acres and improves about 400,000 acres of young timber by thinning and release from vegetative competition.

National Forest timber is managed on a sustained-yield basis to produce a continuous supply of wood products to meet the country's economic demands while maintaining the productivity of these lands. Timber is harvested on each National Forest according to a plan that is revised every 10 years to reflect changes in inventory, use, and environmental objectives. However, changes affecting the amount of timber available may be incorporated into the plan as they occur.

The forest land and resource management plans also describe logging and reforestation systems to be used in harvesting and replanting trees. For instance, balloon, helicopter, and skyline cable harvesting systems often facilitate reforestation and protect soil and other resource values. In preparing individual timber sales, foresters decide on the specific silvicultural and harvesting systems appropriate for the particular soil conditions involved and determine the measures necessary to protect the environment.

Timber management, including prudent timber harvests, can improve watersheds by increasing water flow. Openings created by harvests also improve wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. For instance, wildlife feed on the new vegetation that grows well there, and cross-country skiers take advantage of the open fields of snow in winter.

Our national appetite for wood products has jumped 70 percent during the past 30 years, and the United States will face even greater demands for forest products by the

year 2000. In order to increase the amount of timber produced from National Forest lands, more intensive management practices are being applied, such as thinning in young timber stands; salvage of timber damaged by fire, insects, or disease; reforestation of old burns; genetic improvement of tree species; and fertilization.

Recreation

Meeting our Nation's increasing demands for recreational opportunities in a pleasing forest environment is a major aim of forest land managers. America's leisure time interests include a wide variety of outdoor activities—sightseeing, picnicking, camping, backpacking, and attending educational programs offered by visitor information centers. Demand is surging for water recreation opportunities such as boating, fishing, and water skiing. And hunting continues as a favorite activity.

In winter, America's skiing enthusiasts travel to the numerous popular commercial resort areas, many of which are on National Forests, for both downhill and cross-country skiing.

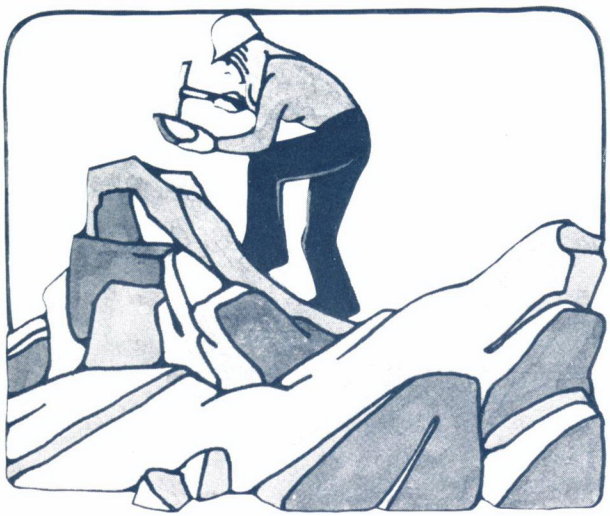
The Forest Service supplies more outdoor recreation than any other Federal agency.

Much of this recreational use takes place in the natural forest environment—with its woodlands, streams, and mountains—and on 99,468 miles of trails administered by the agency. However, the National Forests also contain a wide range of developed facilities, for the convenience and enjoyment of those who camp, picnic, boat, swim, or participate in winter sports. The Forest Service maintains more than 6,000 campgrounds and picnic grounds, 320 swimming sites, 1,106 boating sites, and 307 winter sports sites. National Forest recreational facilities have a combined total capacity of 1.8 million people at any one time.

The Forest Service also administers 9 National Recreation Areas and all or part of 19 rivers within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In addition, more than 25,000 cultural, historical, and archeological sites have been identified within the National Forest System.

Wilderness

The Forest Service pioneered the establishment of wilderness on National Forests in 1924 with the Nation's first such area—the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. Wilderness offers opportunities for dispersed recreation, but



it also provides a laboratory for scientific, historical, and educational study. The National Forest System now contains 329 congressionally designated wildernesses on 32.1 million acres, and 1 primitive area covering 175,112 acres.

Minerals and Energy

National Forest lands are a major source of mineral and energy supplies for our Nation's economic security. Energy resources on NFS lands include oil, natural gas, coal, geothermal steam, and uranium. Mineral commodities of strategic importance on these lands are nickel, cobalt, molybdenum, tungsten, and vanadium. Other important commodities include gold, silver, lead, phosphate, barite, and construction materials such as gravel and stone.

Responsibility for regulating and managing mineral activities on National Forest System lands is shared by the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior. Actual mineral operations are managed by the Department of the Interior, but surface resource operations on mineral lands are controlled by the Forest Service.

Several laws allow eligible persons to locate claims and mine mineral deposits—except "leasable" minerals—on public domain lands. The Forest Service administers mining claims by requiring that operators work according to approved operating plans. The approved plans must include provisions for reclamation after mining.

Mineral leasing laws authorize the Department of the Interior to lease lands, including National Forest System lands, for production of certain "leasable" minerals, including oil and gas, coal, phosphate, potassium, sodium, and sulfur.

The Forest Service is authorized to manage the forest resources on leased lands by recommending appropriate conservation measures to be followed by a lease operator. Strip mining of Federal coal is generally prohibited on National Forests.

The minerals management objective of the Forest Service is to permit environmentally responsible prospecting and mining where those activities are authorized by law and are compatible with the overall forest plan. Mineral areas are managed to insure that mineral extraction causes minimal disturbance and damage to the land and that damaged lands are reclaimed. Reclamation should return disturbed areas to high levels of production and usefulness after mineral operations and prevent their becoming unsightly scars, dangers to the public, or sources of pollution.

Fire Management

The Forest Service, with one of the world's largest wildland firefighting forces, provides direct fire protection and control for National Forest System lands. It also provides cooperative fire control on several million additional acres.

Fire control activities require substantial fire presuppression efforts. These include building firebreaks and access roads and conducting controlled burns to reduce vegetation that might otherwise become hazardous fuels in wildfires.

Fire suppression requires trained personnel, specialized equipment, and support. After wildfire is controlled, conservation practices are followed to protect and restore the productivity of burned areas.

The Forest Service fire management program includes the use of prescribed fire, as well as wildfire control, to provide efficient fire protection while contributing to National Forest resource management objectives. Prescribed fire can be a useful tool for improving wildlife habitat and livestock grazing, preparing sites for planting trees, controlling vegetative competition in young timber stands, controlling forest diseases, and reducing the threat of wildfire to resource values and the public.

Forest Pest Management

The Forest Service carries out forest insect and disease prevention and suppression on National Forest lands and provides technical and financial assistance and coordination to support these activities on other forested lands.

Resource managers and pest management specialists work together to reduce pest-caused losses on our Nation's forest resources. This requires recognizing stand conditions conducive to pest outbreaks; detecting potentially damaging outbreaks; thoroughly evaluating potential impacts of these outbreaks; and preventing and suppressing outbreaks in a manner that is biologically, economically, and environmentally sound. Finally, a large part of the overall forest pest prevention and suppression effort must be applied as an integral part of forest resource management activities.

Engineering

The Forest Service has a large and diversified engineering staff. Major activities include designing, building, oper-

ating, and maintaining buildings and related facilities; protecting watersheds; developing potable water systems; collecting and disposing of sanitary and solid waste from recreational and administrative sites; and conducting surveys to establish National Forest System property lines and corners.

A large part of the agency's engineering effort is directed toward road and trail construction. Currently, the National Forest System has 343,293 miles of roads and 99,468 miles of trails.

A large force of Forest Service landscape architects insures that these and other management activities on the National Forests are visually pleasing.

Cooperative Activities With State and Private Forest Owners

The Forest Service cooperates with State and local governments, forest industries, and other private landowners and forest users in the management, protection, and development of 877 million acres of forest land in non-Federal ownership.

Through its State and Private Forestry programs, the Forest Service provides financial and technical assistance to improve fire control and protect forests from insects and diseases; plan forestry programs that obtain the optimum uses from forest resources; improve practices in harvesting, processing, and marketing of forest products; encourage State forestry agencies in their programs; and transfer forestry research to the research users.

Cooperative Resource Protection

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 provides for assistance in rural fire protection and forest pest management.

All 50 States have agreements with the Forest Service in the Cooperative Forest Fire Control Program. This program provides financial and technical assistance to the States to help them establish and maintain the needed organization, training, personnel, and equipment to protect 877 million acres of non-Federal land.

The Cooperative Fire Control Program includes the Rural Fire Protection Program, under which the Forest Service provides technical and financial assistance to State Foresters for planning, training, and buying equipment for local firefighting organizations.

The Forest Service also administers a wildfire prevention program, featuring Smokey Bear, to reduce the incidence of human-caused fires on all wildlands.

Forty-six States cooperate in the Forest Pest Action Program, which is designed to assist States in forest insect and disease management. It is through this program that forest insect and disease management becomes an organized and continuing national effort.

Cooperative Resource Management

Of the more than 482 million acres of commercial forest land in the Nation, approximately 58 percent is in more than 7.7 million farm and other private ownerships. Since these private nonindustrial lands make up so much of the Nation's commercial forest land, they must meet

more than half the Nation's future demand for timber supplies and other forest benefits and products.

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 also provides for technical assistance from State and Federal sources to private forest landowners, forest operators and processors, and public agencies. All technical services are performed by the State forestry agencies, in cooperation with the Forest Service.

Annually, about 950 foresters working in 50 cooperating States, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands provide more than 134,000 assists to small woodland owners. Assistance in tree planting and seeding and timber stand improvement is provided on about 800,000 acres each year.

State Service Foresters provide tax information to landowners as part of forest management assistance.

The Forest Service cooperates in providing specialized assistance to loggers and wood processors through programs that are designed to influence better wood utilization and effectively reduce the acres of timber cutting required for consumer goods, and by developing energy from renewable resources.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) has administrative responsibilities for the Agriculture Conservation Program (ACP), through which the Federal Government and private forest landowners share the cost of certain approved forestry practices. The Government may pay a portion of the costs, depending on the practices involved. ACP forestry practices include the protection of forest lands, conservation of soil and water, improvement of wildlife habitat, timber production, and enhancement of forest recreational potential.

The 1985 Farm Bill established a Conservation Reserve program to retire eroding cropland. The Forest Service, working through the State Foresters, is responsible for the tree planting portion of that program.

Other Programs

The Forestry Incentives Program (FIP), jointly administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Forest Service, is designed to increase the supply of wood products, especially lumber and plywood, at a reasonable cost. FIP shares the cost of tree planting and timber stand improvement with nonindustrial private forest landowners.

As a result of this program, more than 1.5 million acres have been planted or reforested, and timber stand improvement work has been completed on more than 1.1 million acres on some 80,000 ownerships.

The Forest Service is responsible for the forest management aspects of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program administered by the Soil Conservation Service. This program is designed to provide increased watershed protection and flood control through accelerated forest land treatment and structural installations.

To assist in improving watersheds, including work aimed at preventing and reducing flood damage, the Forest Service is active in many of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's flood prevention projects.

The Forest Service participates in the forestry aspects of the River Basin Program, which guides and coordinates water and related land resource planning among several Federal departments. The States, Federal-State River Basin Commissions, and Interagency Committees participate in the program.

The Forest Resource Planning Program provides States with technical and financial assistance and training to develop long-range plans for the use and management of State forestry resources.

Research to Support Forest-Related Activities

The Forest Service operates a forestry research program of unparalleled size and scope. The program provides scientific and technical knowledge needed to protect America's natural resources on all lands, to gain maximum benefits from their use, and to minimize the effects of human intervention on the environment.

Research is conducted at eight Forest and Range Experiment Stations and the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wisconsin, plus 75 research labs throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Pacific Trust Territories.

The Forest Service joins with the Nation's 61 forestry schools, the agricultural experiment stations of Land-Grant institutions, other public agencies, forest industries, and concerned private groups in planning research programs to promote more efficient use of research talents and facilities.

All funded studies fulfill at least one of the following four criteria: (1) They respond to needs for which present technology is inadequate; (2) they contribute to increased national productivity; (3) they respond to national policies; and (4) they relate to changes in demand for technology.

The principal areas of Forest Service research are land and resource protection, resource management, and wood utilization. The agency performs research on forest tree improvement, growth, and harvesting; forest economics; protection of forests from fire, diseases, and pests; and management and improvement of rangelands. Other subjects include management and improvement of wildlife and fish habitats; forest recreation and wilderness management; protection and management of watersheds; urban forestry; rehabilitation of lands disturbed by mining; forest

engineering; and efficient marketing and use of forest products.

The research program also supports international forestry through cooperation with other Federal agencies, the United Nations, and bilateral agreements with a number of foreign countries.

Forest Service research comprises 10 major activities.

Forest Fire and Atmospheric Sciences Research

- Develops improved methods to prevent wildfires or control them once started.
- Reduces wind- and weather-related losses of forests.
- Studies the use of prescribed fire to promote the economical growth of desirable plant species.
- Reduces loss of life, property, and forest resources from fire.

Forest Insect and Disease Research

- Develops technology to prevent or reduce forest and rangeland damage by insect and disease pests.
- Protects wood in use and storage from wood-destroying insects and decay.
- Develops environmentally safe and effective strategies for pest management.
- Helps integrate pest management with forest resource management.

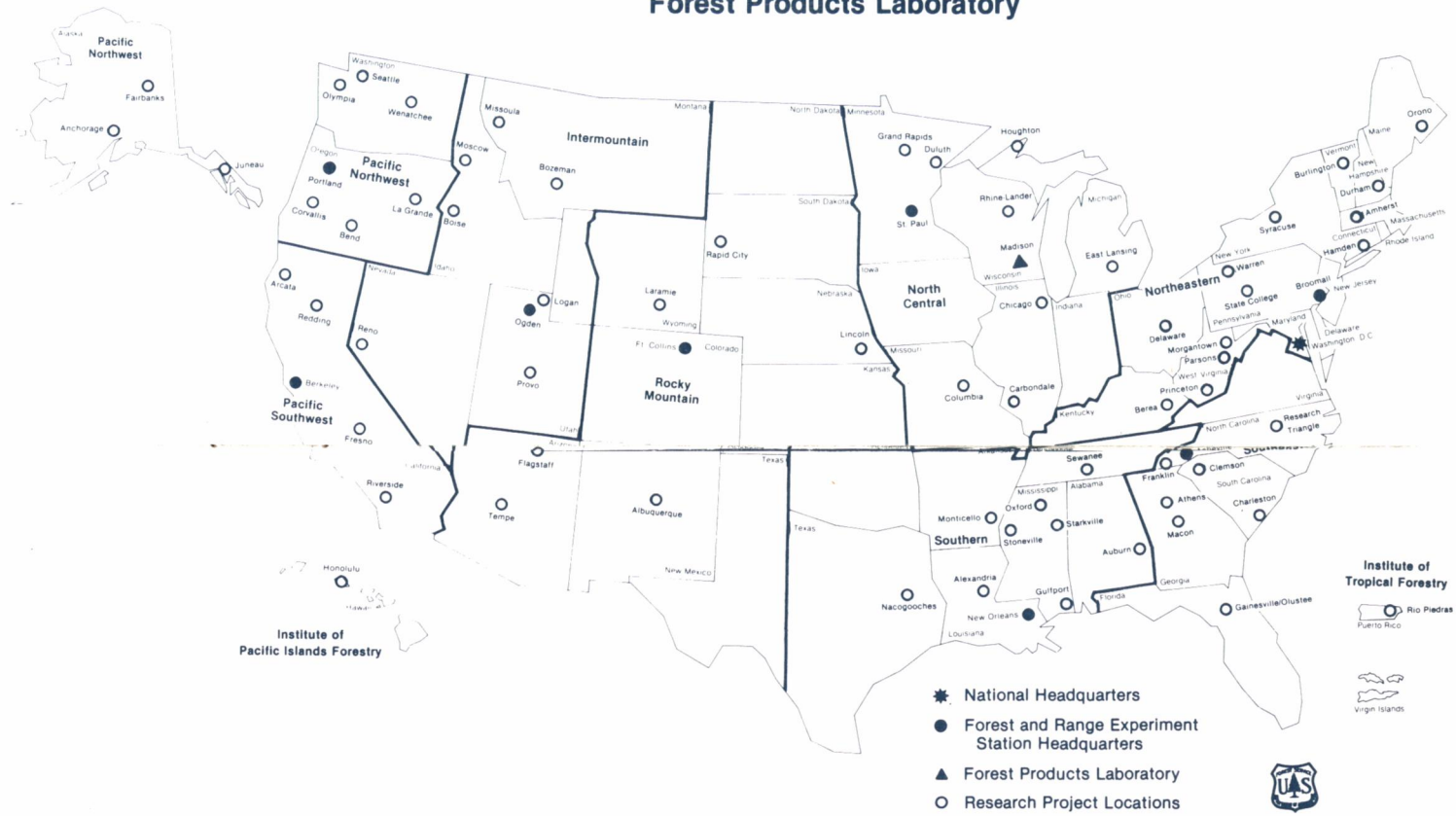
Forest Inventory and Analysis

- Provides comprehensive, continuing information and analyses of the characteristics of forest land resources of the United States. Forest Inventory data, monitoring surveys, and results of analyses are used by forest industry, financial consultants, and State resource planners in making decisions about expanding industry, managing financial investments, designing State forestry programs, and creating public and private forestry policies.

Renewable Resources Economics Research

- Develops and applies methods to analyze the resource relationship of the forest-products market to economic and institutional forces.
- Designs economically efficient forest-management activities.

Forest and Range Experiment Stations, Forest Products Laboratory



- Contributes directly to the creation of National Forest management decisions and the design of both public and private forest-management programs.

- Helps individual landowners and forest-products processing firms manage their resources efficiently.

Trees and Timber Management Research

- Develops improved silvicultural alternatives and management guidelines needed to increase the productivity and multiple-use benefits of forest lands.

- Maximizes the growth and quality of forest trees.

- Ensures that the information and technology needed to achieve full productivity are developed and promptly made available.

Watershed and Rehabilitation Research

- Develops and tests new cost-effective techniques and methods for rehabilitating lands disturbed by surface mining and for protecting, managing, and improving forest and rangeland watersheds.

- Helps planners and managers meet long-term water quality and flow needs, rehabilitate surface-mined lands, and determine the relationship between land use and water quality and flow.

- Examines relationships between atmospheric deposition and forest health and watershed conditions. In addition to giving decisionmakers information on this important environmental issue, these studies are improving the understanding of how watersheds function and how the environment influences forest health and growth.

Wildlife, Range, and Fish Habitat Research

- Develops knowledge and technology to maintain or improve wildlife and fish habitat, improve range condition and productivity, improve soil stability and vegetation cover, and integrate wildlife, fish and livestock with other forest and rangeland uses.

- Helps managers understand the complex relationships

among habitat quality, growth, and response of vegetation to defoliation, other land uses, and wildlife and fish populations. The knowledge is used to ensure diverse, well-distributed habitats, productive rangeland ecosystems, and protection and improvement of forage and related resources.

Forest Recreation Research

- Provides forest land managers with technology to supply more and higher quality outdoor recreation experiences.

- Develops knowledge to manage vegetation in and near urban areas for optimum economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Forest Products and Harvesting Research

- Provides technology to harvest and utilize timber more efficiently.

- Develops timber harvesting and transporting systems that are economical and environmentally acceptable.

- Improves the performance of wood products.

- Expands opportunities for wood-products experts.

- Reduces costs and energy consumption in wood processing.

- Facilitates forest management and environmental protection through improved harvesting and use of wood.

Forestry Competitive Research Grants

- Support high-risk, long-term basic research on wood materials, woody plants, and forest communities. This program, funded by Congress and made a part of the Forest Service budget on an annual basis, was initiated in 1985 and renewed in 1986. Funds were equally divided between two areas—harvesting, processing, and utilization research; and basic research in forest biology, including biotechnology.

- Are administered by the USDA's Competitive Research Grants Office.

Human Resource Programs

The development and wise use of human resources is a valuable part of the mission of the Forest Service. The agency administers and hosts programs that provide work, training, and education to minorities, the economically depressed, the elderly, the handicapped, and youth. Through these activities, these people can help themselves become stronger and more self-sufficient citizens.

Youth Conservation Corps

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is administered by the Forest Service and by the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior. It provides summer employment for youths 15 through 18 years of age from all segments of society to do conservation work on public lands.

Forest Service Volunteers

The Forest Service Volunteers program offers a variety of opportunities for interested persons or groups to contribute their talents, knowledge, and expertise toward the accomplishment of the Forest Service mission. Participants gain valuable work experience while helping preserve and conserve our natural resources. Work performed by volunteers complements the work of Forest Service professionals and helps reduce the backlog of conservation work that could not otherwise be done.

Touch America Project (TAP) is a special volunteer program for youth. TAP is a "community" partnership of organizations or businesses sponsoring teen-aged volunteers to do conservation work on public lands.

Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers

The Job Corps program is authorized through the Department of Labor's funding and oversight responsibility. Job Corps is a training and education program for disadvantaged young men and women ages 16 through 22.

The main purpose of Job Corps is to produce graduates who are able to find productive work, re-enter school, or join the military. The Forest Service operates 18 Job Corps Centers, 7 of which are coeducational.

Enrollees receive room, board, clothing, medical and dental care, vocational skills, training, education, and a

monthly allowance instead of wages. Each youth is provided the opportunity to obtain a General Education Development (GED) certificate. Actual on-the-job Forest Service projects provide vocational skills training, which is enhanced by contracts with national trade unions.

Senior Community Service Employment Program

The Forest Service, in cooperation with the Department of Labor, sponsors the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The SCSEP has three fundamental purposes: (1) community services to the general public, (2) part-time employment and supplemental income, and (3) training and transition of participants to the private sector labor market. The program employs economically disadvantaged persons aged 55 and older in 38 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

This program seeks to improve the welfare of low-income elderly persons and to foster a renewed sense of self-worth and community involvement among traditionally poor and hard-to-employ older individuals living in rural areas.

Participants complete valuable conservation projects in all three branches of the Forest Service—National Forest System, Research, and State and Private Forestry.

Hosted Human Resource Programs

The Hosted Human Resource Programs include programs sponsored by Federal, State, and local agencies that, through agreements with the Forest Service, provide meaningful training and supervision to participants at Forest Service work sites.

The primary purpose of these arrangements is to provide employment and training opportunities for participants while the Forest Service and public receive benefits from the conservation work that is accomplished.

Examples of hosted programs include programs under the Job Training Partnership Act, College Work Study, Vocational Work Study, Vocational Rehabilitation, Workfare Assistance, work release programs for offenders, Community Work Experience, and the Student Conservation Association programs.

The Forest Service sponsors several major efforts to obtain public awareness of Forest Service programs, activities, and services. The agency informs the public on how it can use National Forest System lands, resources, and facilities and provides current information on the status of ongoing work.

The Forest Service also provides information useful in the management of privately owned forest lands and on the types of assistance available for improving these lands. Research information is provided in an understandable form and made available to potential users.

The agency's natural resource and environmental education program places special emphasis on involving educators, resource professionals, and citizens' groups in developing skills and techniques for investigating and teaching others about their environment.

Information and involvement programs aim to inform the public on natural resource matters as the basis for involving them in natural resource decisions being made by the Forest Service on both national and local levels. Development of RPA documents and forest plans includes extensive public involvement.

The Woodsy Owl program creates public awareness of pollution and environmental improvement problems and suggests solutions.

Through these and other public participation programs, the Forest Service works to broaden cooperative programs and problem solving with groups, organizations, and individuals.

Give a hoot!
Don't pollute.

Major Legislation Authorizing Activities of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

1891: Creative Act of March 3, 1891 (16 U.S.C. 471)—Authorized the President to establish Forest Reserves from forest and range lands in the public domain. (Repealed by provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.)

1897: Organic Administration Act of June 4, 1897 (16 U.S.C. 473–478, 479, 482, 551)—Established purpose and intent for the protection and management of the lands set aside and reserved as Forest Reserves. Provided for the right of entry to persons for prospecting, locating, and developing mineral resources, and for the use of water and timber resources located on Forest Reserves.

1905: Transfer Act of February 1, 1905 (16 U.S.C. 472, 524, 554)—Transferred the Forest Reserves created by the 1891 Act and the authority to execute the appropriate laws pertaining to their management and protection from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture and established the Forest Service. Resulted in renaming the Forest Reserves as National Forests.

1908: Twenty-Five Percent Payments to States Act of May 23, 1908 (16 U.S.C. 500)—Directed that 25 percent of all moneys received for goods and services from each National Forest be paid annually to the States in which the National Forest is situated, for the benefit of the public schools and roads of the counties in which the National Forest is located.

1911: Weeks Law–Act of March 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 480, 515, 517, 521, 552, 563)—Authorized the acquisition of lands, by purchase or exchange, to be administered as National Forest lands for timber production and watershed protection.

1924: Clarke–McNary Act of June 7, 1924 (16 U.S.C. 471, 499, 505, 568, 570)—Directed the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with the States in promoting systems of fire prevention, conservation, reforestation, and forestry education for land suitable for the production of water and forest resources. (Portions of this act were repealed by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978.)

1930: Knutson–Vandenburg Act of June 9, 1930 (16 U.S.C. 576–576b)—Required purchasers of National Forest timber to deposit money, in addition to timber stumpage payments, to cover costs to the United States of replanting harvested areas and removing undesirable trees from the areas. Established forest tree nurseries. Amended in 1976 to broaden the uses of the collected moneys, particularly for protection and improvement of future productivity of the forest resources.

1937: Bankhead–Jones Farm Tenant Act of July 22, 1937 (7 U.S.C. 1010–1012)—Provided for development of a national land conservation and land utilization program for management of acquired lands, and provided for the sale or exchange of acquired lands. (Some of the lands acquired under this Act subsequently became the National Grasslands.)

1952: Smokey Bear Act of May 23, 1952 (18 U.S.C. 711)—The Smokey Bear Act was passed to protect Smokey's name and character from misuse and unauthorized use.

1960: Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act (16 U.S.C. 528–531)—Supplemented the purpose for which the National Forests were established to include outdoor recreation, watershed, range, timber, and wildlife and fish purposes. Directed that the renewable surface resources be managed to achieve a sustaining yield without impairment of the land's productivity.

1962: McIntire–Stennis Act of October 10, 1962 (16 U.S.C. 528a)—Made funds available to States on a matching basis to help carry out forestry research at land grant institutions and State-supported forestry schools.

1964: Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131–1136)—Enabled Congress to establish certain areas to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Nucleus of the system in 1964 was the 9 million acres of Federal wildernesses managed as wild and primitive areas by the Forest Service since 1924. Provided for studies on the inclusion of additional wildernesses.

1964: Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460, 23 U.S.C. 120)—Established a system

of financing Federal grants to States for Recreation, planning, and development. The Forest Service and other Federal agencies were authorized to purchase lands and water areas primarily suited to recreational development. Funds were to be derived from motorboat fuel taxes, admission and use fees in National Park and National Forest areas, and surplus property sales.

1964: National Forest Roads and Trails System Act of October 13, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 532–538)—Provided for the construction and maintenance of a roads and trails system to enable protection and management of National Forest land.

1968: National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241–1249)—Established a national system of recreational and scenic trails, and designated Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails as initial components in the system. Provided for studies of other national recreational and national scenic trails.

1968: Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271–1287)—Designated certain rivers in the Nation as having outstanding scenic, geologic, recreational, cultural, or other attributes meriting their retention in a free-flowing condition, through protected corridors. Also provided for the study of other rivers.

1970: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, 4331–4335, 4341–4347)—Declared the enhancement of harmony between people and their environment to be a national policy, and established a Council on Environmental Quality. Required all Federal agencies to prepare reports on environmental impact of major planned programs or actions by the agency and to describe alternative actions.

1970: Youth Conservation Corps Acts of 1970 and 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1701–1706)—Provided for the summer employment of youths 15 through 18 years of age. The youths so enrolled were to be employed for conserving, developing, preserving, or maintaining public lands administered by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, and by the States.

1972: Volunteers in the National Forest Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 588a–588d)—Provided for the recruitment and training of individuals to perform volunteer work supporting Forest Service programs and activities without compensation.

1973: Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531–1542)—Provided for the protection and conservation of threatened and endangered fish, wildlife, and plant species.

1974: Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600–1614)—A planning and budgetary procedure that requires the Forest Service to prepare long-range assessments of the Nation's forest and rangeland resources and develop programs for the National Forest System, Research, and State and Private Forestry. Programs for 1975 and 1980 from Secretary of Agriculture were based on assessments of present and anticipated supply and demand needs and inventories of present and potential resource opportunities. Annual reports on Forest Service programs are to be made to Congress.

1974: Woodsy Owl Campaign Act of June 22, 1974 (31 U.S.C. 488b)—Authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to license the manufacture and distribution of Woodsy Owl merchandise and to collect royalty fees for such licensed use, and to protect legal users from unauthorized use of the antipollution symbol.

1976: Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701)—Provided organic authority for the management of public lands by the Secretary of the Interior, prescribing detailed management direction in such areas as land use planning, land acquisition and disposal withdrawals, range management, and rights-of-way. The act also provided statutory authorities for the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior in range management, issuance of rights-of-way, and certain other miscellaneous aspects of management of lands by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

1976: National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472, 476, 500, 513–521, 528, 576, 594, 1600–1614)—Amended the Forest and Rangeland Renewable

Resources Planning Act of 1974 to provide for new timber management authorities and a coordinated land management planning process that requires full public participation in the development and revision of land management plans for the National Forest System. The act provided comprehensive new authorities for the management, sale, and harvesting of National Forest timber; statutory protection for National Forests created from the public domain; for bidding on National Forest timber; for road building associated with timber harvesting; for reforestation, salvage sales, and the handling of receipts from timber sales activities.

1978: Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101–2111)—Authorized technical assistance, cost sharing, and resource protection programs on non-Federal forest lands, through cooperative agreements with State forestry agencies. Repealed and consolidated legislative authority for cooperative forestry assistance and forestry incentives enacted since 1924, specifically portions of the Clarke-McNary Act of 1924, the Forest Pest Control Act of 1947, the Cooperative Forest Management Act of 1950, and sections of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973.

1978: Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1600)—Authorized a forestry research program in resource management, environmental protection, forest products utilization, and resource assessment. Updated, and expanded the authority for forestry research provided originally by the McSweeney-McNary Act of 1928, which was repealed.

1978: Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1751–1753, 1901–1908; 16 U.S.C. 1333)—Amended the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Wild Horse and Burros Protection Act of 1971 to provide additional direction and authorities for management of public rangelands. Established a statutory grazing fee formula in 16 Western States for the years 1979–85, excluding the National Grasslands.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF FOREST SERVICE

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

Protects and manages 191 million acres:
- 186.3 million acres National Forests
- 3.8 million acres National Grasslands
- 459,159 acres of Land Utilization Projects, Purchase Units, Research and Experiments Areas, and others

On these lands are:
- 3.5 million big-game animals
- 194.9 billion cubic feet of standing timber
- 64 threatened or endangered wildlife, fish, and plant species

In fiscal year 1985:
- $1.13 billion was received from National Forests as follows—
  - $883 million from timber sales
  - $9 million from grazing fees
  - $159 million from mineral receipts
  - $12.1 million from recreation admission and user fees
  - $18.7 million from recreation special uses, such as ski areas
  - $50.9 million from power and other
- $235.6 million was returned to States

In fiscal year 1985:
- No. of timber sales—366,874
- Timber sold—10.8 billion board feet
- Value of timber sold—$558.2 million
- Volume of timber harvested—10.9 billion board feet
- Value of timber harvested—$720.0 million
- 310,191 acres planted and seeded
- 305,652 acres of timber stand improvement
- 161.9 million tree seedlings produced in nurseries
- 225.4 million recreation visitor-days
- 8.8 million animal-unit-months of grazing
- 8,042 miles of road constructed or reconstructed
- 987 miles of trails constructed or reconstructed
- 663,756 acres burned by 12,000 wildfires

9 REGIONS

156 National Forests, administered by 121 Supervisors
19 National Grasslands
16 Land Utilization Projects
13 Nurseries
644 Ranger Districts
18 Civilian Conservation Centers

AGRICULTURE

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH

through science produces knowledge and technology for:

Managing resources
- Timber
- Water
- Range
- Wildlife and fish habitat
- Recreation

Protecting resources
- Wildfire
- Insect
- Disease
- Pollution

Utilizing wood resources
- Wood products
- Marketing
- Engineering systems

plus

Resource surveys and related economics

8 Forest and Range Experiment Stations
1 Forest Products Laboratory
75 other research locations

220 research projects
2,800 individual studies
800 scientists
2,299 publications annually

COOPERATION

with

State and private

owners

to meet

the needs

of an

expanding population

through

134,338 woodland owner assists for improved management

796.2 million forest and wind barrier planting stock distributed, under cooperative programs

Providing protection

Reforestation of 620,760 acres
Increasing forest yields
Assists to wood-using industries for utilizing forest products and reducing wood waste, which affected 137.6 million cubic feet of forest products
Conserving soil and water
Providing forest recreation
Enhancing natural beauty
Increasing fish and wildlife habitat

1 Area, 8 Regions

Cooperation with 50 States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Pacific Trust Territories

Public agencies, community development organizations, and forestry industry

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